

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claim 18, rewrite claim 19 in independent form, and amend claims 9, 10, and 27-34, without acquiescence to the basis of the rejections set forth in the Office Action, and without prejudice to pursue the previously presented claims in related application(s), as follow. A complete listing of the claims is provided below.

1. (Previously Presented) A hearing aid comprising:  
a transceiver for interconnection of the hearing aid with a wireless network, and  
a communication controller that is adapted for controlling data exchange through the network in accordance with a network protocol,  
wherein the controller is further adapted for initialisation of the network in an acquisition mode by controlling the transceiver to transmit interrogation data repetitively, and  
wherein the controller is further adapted to, upon receipt of an interrogation data received message from another device, act in a connected mode as a master of the network by repetitively controlling the transceiver to transmit synchronization data at intervals that are longer than intervals between the transmitted interrogation data in the acquisition mode.
2. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the controller is further adapted to act as a slave in the network upon receipt of interrogation data from another hearing aid, the other hearing aid being the master of the network.
3. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the controller, in the acquisition mode, is further adapted to enable the transceiver to receive data from the network in certain time periods during which transmission of synchronization data is inhibited.
4. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the controller is further adapted for selective operation of the transceiver in a plurality of frequency channels.
5. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the controller is further adapted for operation of the transceiver according to a time division multiplex scheme.

6. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid according to claim 4, wherein the controller is further adapted for operation of the transceiver according to a frequency division multiplex scheme.
7. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid according to claim 4, wherein the controller is further adapted for operation of the transceiver according to a spread spectrum scheme.
8. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid according to claim 7, wherein the controller is further adapted for operation of the transceiver according to a frequency hopping scheme.
9. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid according to claim 8, wherein a frequency hopping algorithm is provided that allows ~~devices~~ another device in the network to calculate what frequency channel the network will use at any given point in time without relying on a history of the network.
10. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein when the controller acts as the master in the network, ~~all~~ other devices in the network synchronize to a timing of the master utilising the synchronization data.
11. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein a new device is automatically recognizable by the network and interconnected with the network.
12. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the transceiver is further adapted for reception of data from devices that do not receive data from the network.
13. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the transceiver is for interconnection of the hearing aid with an additional hearing aid through the network, wherein the hearing aid and the additional hearing aid are parts of a binaural hearing aid system.
14. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid according to claim 1, further comprising a remote controller for communication with the transceiver through the wireless network.

15. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the transceiver is for communication with a fitting instrument through the wireless network.

16. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the transceiver is for communication with a mobile phone through the wireless network.

17. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the transceiver is for communication with a broadcast system through the wireless network.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The binaural hearing aid system according to claim 18;~~ A binaural hearing aid system comprising:

a first and a second hearing aid that are interconnected for data exchange,

wherein the first and second hearing aid are interconnected through a wireless network,

and

wherein the first hearing aid is configured to act as a master of the wireless network to

thereby perform data transmission more often than data reception;

wherein the first hearing aid comprises:

a transceiver for interconnection of the hearing aid with a wireless network, and

a communication controller that is adapted for controlling data exchange through the network in accordance with a network protocol,

wherein the controller is further adapted for initialisation of the network in an acquisition mode by controlling the transceiver to transmit interrogation data repetitively, and

wherein the controller is further adapted to, upon receipt of an interrogation data received message from another device, act in a connected mode as the master of the network by repetitively controlling the transceiver to transmit synchronization data at intervals that are longer than intervals between the transmitted interrogation data in the acquisition mode.

20. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system according to claim 19, wherein the controller is further adapted to act as a slave in the network upon receipt of interrogation data from another hearing aid, the other hearing aid being the master of the network.
21. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system according to claim 19, wherein the controller, in the acquisition mode, is further adapted to enable the transceiver to receive data from the network in certain time periods during which transmission of synchronization data is inhibited.
22. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system according to claim 19, wherein the controller is further adapted for selective operation of the transceiver in a plurality of frequency channels.
23. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system according to claim 19, wherein the controller is further adapted for operation of the transceiver according to a time division multiplex scheme.
24. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system according to claim 22, wherein the controller is further adapted for operation of the transceiver according to a frequency division multiplex scheme.
25. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system according to claim 22, wherein the controller is further adapted for operation of the transceiver according to a spread spectrum scheme.
26. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system according to claim 25, wherein the controller is further adapted for operation of the transceiver according to a frequency hopping scheme.
27. (Currently Amended) The binaural hearing aid system according to claim 26, wherein a frequency hopping algorithm is provided that allows ~~devices~~ another device in the network to

calculate what frequency channel the network will use at any given point in time without relying on a history of the network.

28. (Currently Amended) The binaural hearing aid system according to claim ~~48~~ 19, wherein when the first hearing aid acts as the master in the network, ~~all~~ other devices in the network synchronize to a timing of the master.

29. (Currently Amended) The binaural hearing aid system according to claim ~~48~~ 19, wherein a new device is automatically recognizable by the network and interconnected with the network.

30. (Currently Amended) The binaural hearing aid system according to claim ~~48~~ 19, wherein the transceiver is further adapted for reception of data from other devices that do not receive data from the network.

31. (Currently Amended) The binaural hearing aid system according to claim ~~48~~ 19, further comprising a remote controller for communication with the first hearing aid through the wireless network.

32. (Currently Amended) The binaural hearing aid system of claim ~~48~~ 19, wherein the first hearing aid is configured to communicate with a fitting instrument through the wireless network.

33. (Currently Amended) The binaural hearing aid system of claim ~~48~~ 19, wherein the first hearing aid is configured to communicate with a mobile phone through the wireless network.

34. (Currently Amended) The binaural hearing aid system of claim ~~48~~ 19, wherein the first hearing aid is configured to communicate with a broadcast system through the wireless network.

35. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the transceiver is configured to operate with a minimal reception time.

36. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the transceiver is configured to perform data transmission more often than data reception.

37. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid according to claim 14, wherein the remote control is a slave.

38. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid according to claim 15, wherein the fitting instrument is a slave.

39. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid according to claim 16, wherein the mobile phone is a slave.

40. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid according to claim 17, wherein the broadcast system is a slave.